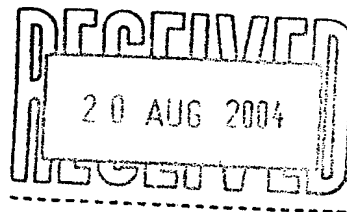


RF 206A

In Reply Please Quote Our Reference

Your Ref : TTJ/MO/KPL/K.2001166947  
Our Ref : 2001080704/040819/TMABS/5539  
Date : 19/08/2004  
Writer's Direct Line : 6330 2748

ALLEN & GLEDHILL  
36 ROBINSON ROAD  
#18-01  
CITY HOUSE  
SINGAPORE 068877



Dear Sir,

**Singapore Patent Application No.: 200108070-4**

**Title of invention: MANUFACTURING METHOD IN MANUFACTURING LINE, MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR EXPOSURE APPARATUS, AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS**

**Applicant(s): NIKON CORPORATION (JP)**

**SUPPLEMENTARY SEARCH REPORT(S)**

The supplementary Search Report(s) for this application has been established and a copy of it is attached.

Your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Patents Act and Rules (Cap. 221 and R 1) for further action that may be taken in relation to the supplementary search report received. In particular, please refer to rule 45(3) of the Patent Rules.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Annie Besant d/o Surendran

for REGISTRAR OF PATENTS  
SINGAPORE

# AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

## SUPPLEMENTARY SEARCH REPORT

Applicant's or agent's file reference TTJ/MO/KPL/K.2001166947		
Application No. SG 200108070-4	Application Filing Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 27 December 2001	(Earliest) Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 28 December 2000
Applicant NIKON CORPORATION (JP)		

This search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I)
2. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II)
3. ☐ The application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
  - ☐ filed with the application
  - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the application,
    - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in application as filed
4. With regard to the title,
  - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
  - ☐ the text has been established by this Office to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
  - ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
  - ☐ the text has been established by this Office as it appears in Box III
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1
  - ☒ as suggested by the applicant.
  - ☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure
  - ☐ because this figure better characterises the invention
  - ☐ None of the figures

**AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE****SEARCH REPORT**

Application No.

SG 200108070-4

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This search report has not been established in respect of certain claims for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.

because they relate to non-patentable subject matter (sections 13 and 16) not required to be searched by this Office, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.

because they relate to parts of the application that does not comply with the prescribed requirements (sections 25(4) and 25(5)) to such an extent that no meaningful search can be carried out, specifically:

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This Office found multiple inventions in this application, as follows:

The application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion this Office has found that there are different inventions set out in the independent claims as follows:

1. Claims 1, 9 and 11 relate to a manufacturing method for manufacturing a product or an exposure apparatus. The method includes a plurality of manufacturing lines wherein sequences of the plurality of lines are time-shifted and a first module manufactured in one line is transferred to another line and installed to a main body of the product in another line. It is considered that this time-shifting arrangement above comprises a first special technical feature.
2. Claims 22 and 28 are directed towards an exposure apparatus which exposes or illuminates a second object by an exposure beam via a first object and projection system. The exposure apparatus defined is not limited to an exposure apparatus manufactured according to above claims 1, 9 and 11. Consequently these claims do not share special technical features with the earlier claimed invention.

Since the above mentioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions does not exist. Accordingly the application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

☒ Accordingly, this Office is reporting only on the invention of claims 22-34 , or

☐ Since little extra effort was involved, this Office is reporting on the inventions of claims .

# AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

## SEARCH REPORT

Application No.

SG 200108070-4

### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

According to International Patent Classification (IPC)

Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> G03F 7/20, H01L 21/027

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI, JAPIO: H01L, G03F, exposure, irradiate, stage, remove, interchange, align, vibration

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 834772 A2 (CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 8 April 1998 Figures	
A	US 5986743 A (HANZAWA) 16 November 1999 Figures	
A	EP 1030351 A1 (NIKON CORPORATION) 23 August 2000 Figures	

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of submission of the request to the Australian Patent Office

8 March 2004

Date of completion of the search report

31 May 2004

Date of mailing of the search report

02 JUN 2004

Name and mailing address

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Authorised officer

GREG POWELL

**AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE****SEARCH REPORT****PATENT FAMILY MEMBERS****Application No.****SG 200108070-4**

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
EP	0834772	JP	10-106940	US	6008885
US	5986743	JP	9-289155		
EP	1030351	AU	10518/99	JP	11-219902
		JP	2001-093797	US	2002/145711
				JP	2001-093796
				WO	99/25010
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.					
END OF ANNEX					